



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006**  
**MA'E MA'E ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Sesnita Moepono called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with a quorum present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sesnita Moepono, Donald Nitta, Claude Uehara, Arvid Youngquist, Bob Stubbs, Dale White, Max Fowler, Jay Aguilar

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Loy Kuo, Leonard Kam, Ed Thompson.

**GUESTS:** Henry Oliva (Governor Linda Lingle's representative, Legislative Administration Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services); Sue Berg (Senator Chun Oakland Staff); Anna (Representative Corinne Ching's Staff); Hank Kodama, Frank Lucas, Pat Lee, Rodney Bautista, Yvonne Zhang, Carter Zhang, Leolani Ogama, Greg Funakoshi, Wayne Leonida, John Leonida; Debbie Kim Morikawa (Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative, Director, Department of Community Services); Sgt. Gordon Costa (Honolulu Police Department, Kalihi Station); Capt. Larry Sukanuma (Honolulu Fire Department, Kuakini Station); Gerald Powers (Convalescent Center); Lauren Oakland, Francis Nishimura, Miles Nishimura, Henry Pang, Joey Manahan (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**FILLING OF VACANCIES FOR SUBDISTRICTS 2 – Deferred.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2006 REGULAR MEETING:**

**Board member Youngquist moved and Board member White seconded that the motion to approve regular Board meeting minutes of February 13, 2006 with the following corrections:**

Page 3 under HPD item 3 should read "...was allegedly carried by four officers into the back seat of a patrol car..."

Page 4 under Mayor's Representative item 1 should read, "The condition of 2050 Liliha Street is due to a BWS pipe repair project. The road has been leveled."

Page 6 under Representative Corinne Ching should read, "Representative Corinne Ching distributed her report, stayed for an hour before her allotted time and left."

The motion carried unanimously.



## **RESIDENTS' CONCERNS & GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' FORUM:**

The agenda was taken out of order at this time.

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD)-** Capt. Sukanuma (Kuakini Station) distributed the written report and highlighted the following:

1. Statistics for the month of February 2006: 5 structure, 1 brush, 0 rubbish and 2 vehicle fire. There were 77 medical emergencies, 0 search and rescues and 11 miscellaneous service calls.
2. Community Relations

Fire Safety Tip: Brush fires cause great damage in our communities and use resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Be responsible and dispose of all fires properly. Even small sources of fire, such as cigarettes and charcoal, can cause immense destruction. Work together with your community to make it safer. Make and maintain a 30-foot wide firebreak by clearing the vegetation surrounding all structures. Report and remove hazards. Communicate with each other. Formulate plans for yourself, your family, and your neighborhood in case of emergencies. Now is the time to prepare for the brush fire season. If you are interested in creating a safe space around your home, street, or community, you may contact Denise Laitinen of Firewise at (808) 281-3497 or go to [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). (Distribute Firewise brochure.)

The Chair thanked Captain Sukanuma for his report.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD)-**Sgt. Costa distributed the monthly statistics and highlighted the following:

0 homicides, 1 sex offense, 2 robbery, 7 burglary, 27 theft, 12 UEMV's, 5 motor vehicle thefts, 7 assaults, 78 MVC, 5 property damage, 0 drug/narcotics, 7 family offenses, 62 arguments, 2 DUI.

Questions, answers, and comments:

1. In response to member Nitta's question regarding a cement truck parked on the street, Sgt. Costa replied, if the truck is parked temporarily with someone directing traffic, and it poses no hazard to oncoming traffic, then it is legal.
2. Member Nitta raised concerns regarding a tarp that covers dust from a construction site causing a line of sight problem for motorists. Sgt. Costa suggested calling 911 if there are any questions.

3. In response to the Chair's question regarding the resolution of parking in unimproved areas around Alewa Park, Sgt. Costa replied HPD is working to address the issue.
4. Board member Fowler is requesting more police presence while signs are being installed at Kunawai Lane and Liliha Street. HPD acknowledges that there have been complaints in the area and they will monitor the situation.
5. The Chair reported hazardous conditions on Keola Drive as one drives mauka.
6. An area resident raised concerns regarding parked school buses on Kapalama Avenue by the graveyard. HPD will monitor the area.
7. An area resident raised concerns of people using the Alewa Heights Park after hours despite signs being posted notifying the park's closure at 8 p.m. HPD will monitor the park.
8. An area resident raised concerns regarding parked cars in the unimproved areas around the Natsanoya Tea House on Kamalii Street. HPD will monitor the area.
9. The Chair inquired regarding statistics for arrests for illegal drug users, which she had read in an article. Sgt. Costa indicated that the statistics are not broken down by that specific category. Usually when a person is arrested they are in violation of an ordinance. The perpetrator may be intoxicated but it is not necessarily charged. He suggested checking the article or calling its author for the statistics in question.
10. Member Uehara reported that he received a response from the City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) affirming that the wall at Kunawai Park is on park property.

The Chair thanked Sgt. Costa and HPD for their report.

**1861 KUALONO STREET**— Mayor's Representative Debbie Morikawa reported that the problem with rats falls under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Health (DOH) Vector Control. On 2/17/06 the owner was issued a Notice of Violation. The owner is usually given 30 days to correct the violation. The DPP investigator indicated that the property is littered with debris, however he did not feel that the property was overgrown with weeds and there appeared to be no structural damage. He noted large trees with heavy branches, however, if branches are overhanging, it is the responsibility of the owners to work it out amongst themselves. Owners are allowed to cut the branches up to their own property line.

Member Jay Aguilar arrived at 7:30 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Member Nitta requested the status of the Board of Water Supply's projects on Kaplama Street mauka to makai especially along the areas of Konia Street and Houghtailing Avenue. (Iris Oda)
2. Area resident Greg Funakoshi raised concerns of roadwork being done on Hala Drive and reported poor conditions due to an uneven surface.
3. An area resident complained of over-grown trees beyond Na Pueo Park. Henry Oliva will check to see who owns or is responsible for the property.

The Chair thanked the residents for their comments.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS)—Iris Oda reported the following:**

1. There was one main break for the month of February. The pipe is a 6" cast iron main that is 75 years old. Although the BWS continues to proactively repair and replace our water mains, many of the pipelines are nearing its useful life and must be replaced. BWS spends millions of dollars every year to improve our aging infrastructure to insure our customers have access to safe and dependable water supplies.
2. Although Detect-A-Leak Week was last week, the Board of Water Supply wants to make sure you know how to find hidden water wasters year-round. Check your house periodically for leaks. Checking for leaks should be integral to your overall maintenance efforts, as it can save you money in the long run by reducing unnecessary water waste in your home. To see if you have a property leak:
  - Make sure you turn off all the devices that use water in your home.
  - Go out to your water meter and check to see if the red arrow or small black triangle on the meter is still moving. If so, you have a leak somewhere on your property.
  - Call a licensed plumber to find the leak and fix it.

Check your toilet, because the toilet is one of the largest water using fixtures in your house, it can also be one of the largest water WASTERS too. To see if you have a leaky toilet:

- Remove your toilet tank cover and drop in a blue dye tablet (you can get them from the Board of Water Supply) or a couple of drops of food coloring.
- Wait 10-15 minutes. If the color appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak.
- Check your toilet's flapper valve and replace if necessary, or call your plumber.

Questions, answers, and comments:

Member White reported water on the road in the area around Judd and Mahalo Streets. Oda advised to call the BWS hotline at 740-5000.

The Chair thanked Oda for her report.

**COUNCILMEMBER TAM** – Councilmember Tam distributed his report and highlighted the following:

1. City Council Legislative updates—Councilmember Tam explained measures relating to property taxes relief.
2. Councilmember Tam has spoken to the City administration regarding the proposed Kuakini Extension Project and has asked the Mayor's help to contact the Governor to help clean up efforts for the remnant parcel of land.
3. Councilmember Tam gave updates on the St. Theresa crosswalk signal and the Alewa Drive street rehabilitation.

Questions, answers, and comments:

1. Member Youngquist requested clarification on a bill relating to curbside recycling. In response, Councilmember Tam explained bill 37 and the permitting process for moving a landfill site from one area to another.
2. Member Youngquist raised his concerns regarding the bid for the St. Theresa crosswalk signal bid and the change of director in the City's Department of Transportation Services (DTS). Councilmember Tam assured member Youngquist that the project bid will go out in November of this year.
3. Councilmember Tam recommend that the Board support a motion for the State to grant the City an easement to access State land for the proposed Kuakini Extension Project.

The Chair thanked Councilmember Tam for his report.

**MAYOR MUFI HANNEMANN'S REPRESENTATIVE**-Debbie Kim Morikawa Director, Department of Community Services, distributed the Mayor's newsletter and reported the following:

1. Announced the Family Festival, which will take place at the end of the month.
2. The Department of Parks and Recreation prioritizes capital improvement projects based on Health and Safety, Federal Mandates, Court Decrees and the maintenance of existing facilities criteria. With over 295 parks island wide,

capital improvement projects are distributed fairly and equitably amongst the districts taking into consideration the department's priorities.

3. The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) prioritizes projects as follows: Projects are scored by City planners to address facility deficiencies, new services, or community support requirements. The projects are then reviewed and validated through each of the respective departments and inserted into the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget. Generally, for DTS, projects are recommended to the Administration and the City Council for consideration based on regulatory, life safety, and traffic circulation considerations. DTS is committed to fulfilling its mission and responsibility for efficient, safe and expeditious movement of traffic on all city streets and roadways and for the planning and coordination of public mass transportation systems and facilities throughout Oahu.
4. The justification for the installation of a traffic signal system consists of an engineering study of traffic conditions, pedestrian characteristics and physical characteristics of the location. There are eight (8) warrants that are analyzed. A traffic signal should be installed if one or more of the warrants are met. The School Crossing signal warrant (Warrant No. 8) includes an engineering study of the frequency and adequacy of gaps in the vehicular traffic stream as related to the number and size of groups of school children at an established school crossing across a major street. A Gap Study was conducted for the Saint Theresa's School/School Street traffic signal request and it was ultimately determined that traffic signals were justified. Marked crosswalks normally accompany the installation of a traffic signal system.
5. Under Section 291c-1, Definitions, Hawaii Revised Statutes, "Sidewalk" means that portion of a street between the curb lines, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines, intended for use of pedestrians. Inconsistencies may occur when it is not clear where the property line ends and the unimproved sidewalk begins.
6. DTS is still working on the assessment for the dedicated left hand turn on Liliha and Kuakini Street. They should have a response by the next NB meeting.

The Chair thanked Morikawa for her report.

**STATUS OF KUAKINI EXTENSION PROJECT:** Councilmember Rod Tam, Paul Won from DTS reported the following:

The vacant parcel at Kuakini Street and Liliha Avenue where the proposed extension project is to take place is currently owned by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). DLNR plans to transfer the land ownership to the City, however, to date no action/transfer of land has taken place, thus DLNR still owns the land. DLNR has granted the City a right of way entry to maintain the remnant property in order for the City to conduct surveys, planning, and design work for the project.

DTS has deferred accepting responsibility for maintaining the parcel stating they are not the legal owner of the land. DTS also cited that the project has been under-funded, and they cannot take on the project or assume maintenance of the State owned land.

Councilmember Tam is requesting that DLNR grant easement rights to the City, so the City can assume responsibility for maintenance of the land including maintaining the grassy areas, abandoned vehicles, and paving extending Kuakini Street and Liliha Avenue. Councilmember Tam cited multi jurisdictional issues as part of the problem of maintaining the area.

Questions, answers, and comments:

1. In response to member Youngquist's question regarding a perpetual easement, Councilmember Tam replied if the easement is granted, it will be perpetual and the City will own the property.
2. In response to member Youngquist's question regarding extending the pavement and doing sidewalk repairs in the area, Councilmember Tam replied that any sidewalk repairs or improvements have to comply with American Disability Act (ADA) standards.
3. The Chair, the Board, and area residents would like the unimproved walkways on Lanakila Ave. paved on both the Diamond Head side and the Ewa side especially. There are many holes and places where pedestrians can get injured, and it is a highly traveled walkway.
4. In response to an area resident's question regarding the ownership of Keola Drive, Councilmember Tam replied it is private. Any upgrades or repairs would come at the expense of taxpayers.
5. The Chair clarified that Liliha is being treated by the City as substandard especially when it comes to sidewalk repairs. In response Councilmember Tam replied aside from the expenses to the tax payers, land would have to be condemned in order to do upgrades or improvements.
6. The Chair warned that current conditions may lead to law suits for the City.
7. In response to concerns from Francis Nishimura regarding the jurisdiction of Keola Drive, Councilmember Tam replied the City has been providing courtesy services including HPD access, pick up of garbage and bulky items, but Keola Drive is still privately owned.
8. The Chair would like information from Paul Won on Keola Drive and the remnant property. There are preliminary reports that the land is ceded land. The Chair suggested the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) put it in a trust in order to facilitate access and maintenance of the area. The Chair also suggested making the area part of the Maluhia Hospital.

9. In response to member Uehara's question regarding the easement facilitating the proposed extension project, Councilmember Tam replied that the City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) handles it and no response was given at this time.
10. In response to member Nitta's question regarding the removal of abandoned vehicles from the remnant parcel, Paul Won replied that the area is owned and the responsibility of the State.
11. Member Nitta raised concerns regarding the sidewalks on Houghtailing Street from School Street mauka. Paul Won will follow up on the request.
12. In response to member Aguilar inquired about decreased capacity on Nuuanu due to the construction project. Paul Won responded that this is likely, however, construction will take place during off-peak hours.
13. Board member Stubbs raised the issue regarding the intersection of Huli Street and Kuakini Street. Cars parked in the spaces on the makai side of Kuakini Street just before Huli Street block the view of oncoming traffic for drivers exiting Huli onto Kuakini. Oncoming traffic cannot see the cars exiting Huli Street onto Kuakini. The result is a major hazard; it is an accident waiting to happen. There have already been accidents there, and Stubbs regularly sees near accidents and has almost been hit several times himself. The problem is actually worse during non-peak hours because the cars are moving at higher rates of speed. Stubbs would like the area assessed.
14. Member Stubbs also raised concerns regarding the new Long's on Kuakini and proper traffic studies being done in order to improve traffic flow in the area especially because of the proposed Long's Pharmacy.
15. An area resident raised concerns regarding the possible lapse of funding for the Kuakini Extension project.
16. The Board and area residents would like to see the project move forward.
17. The Chair would like an update at future meetings of the Board.

**Uehara moved and Aguilar seconded a motion to send a letter from the Liliha Neighborhood Board to the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and State Legislators to support granting an easement to the City to gain access to State land and the remnant property for the proposed Kuakini Extension Project.**

**Stubbs moved and Youngquist seconded to amend the motion to add that no option should be compromised in favor of granting an easement, which was adopted unanimously.**



**The motion to send a letter from the Liliha Neighborhood Board to the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and State Legislators to support granting an easement to the City to gain access to State land and the remnant property for the proposed Kuakini Extension Project. No option should be compromised in favor of granting any easement(s).**

The motion carried 8-0-1. (Ayes: Sesnita Moepono, Donald Nitta, Claude Uehara, Youngquist, Bob Stubbs, Dale White, Max Fowler, Jay Aguilar. Nays: 0 Abstain: Youngquist.)

The Chair thanked Councilmember Tam, Paul Won, and Debbie Morikawa for their presentation.

**TRANSIT CORRIDOR**— Pat Lee himself as independent consultants for Parsons Brinkerhoff, who would like the Board's permission to solicit the public's input for a locally preferred alternative mass transit system. Future meetings are planned for public input and Lee will keep the Board informed on these meetings. Lee also reported that engineers and planners would study all alternatives for an alternative mass transit system for Oahu including a study that would consider no alternative transit system. Included in the study will be the transit corridor, and the results will be presented to the City Council by the end of this year. For information, including the proposed stations, please call 566-2299 or visit [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org).

**GOVERNOR LINDA LINGLE'S REPRESENTATIVE-** Henry Oliva distributed the Governor's report and was available for questions. Oliva announced L&L Drive-In was recently honored for their first restaurant in Liliha.

**SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND'S REPRESENTATIVE-** Sue Berg distributed a packet of materials and was available for questions. Berg announced that the Legislature is at its midpoint also known as cross over.

**REPRESENTATIVE CORINNE CHING-** Representative Corinne Ching distributed her report at the beginning of the meeting. Anna, her staff reported that the representative is aware of the Kuakini Extension issue and reported on caregiver's day.

**REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS ARAKAKI** (District 30) – Rep. Arakaki's representative submitted a report and the status of several bills pertaining to health care.

#### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:**

**CONVALESCENT CENTER OF HONOLULU-** No report.

**KUAKINI MEDICAL CENTER-** No report.

**LANAKILA REHABILITATION CENTER -** No report.

**MALUHIA/LEAHI HOSPITAL -** No report.

**ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER -** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was none.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** No report was given at this time due to time constraints.

**TREASURER'S REPORT-** Deferred due to time constraints.

**OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS-** There were none.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next scheduled Liliha/Puunui/Alewa/Kamehameha Heights Neighborhood Board No. 14 regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2006, at the Ma'ema'e Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Hearing no objections, Chair Moepono adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by Joey Manahan, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by Sesnita Moepono